# MODERN TIMES

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# FHNC Staff Purged for the Holidays

by Andrew J. Esposito
*Modern Times Staff*

For the second time in a year, the Board of Directors of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation (FHNC) attempted to fire its staff members. On Wednesday, November 20, 15 people on the 23 member board signed a petition requesting the resignations of eight of nine full time FHNC staff members. Only the executive director, Mrs. Carlene Williams, was not asked to resign. Instead, her status was changed to "acting executive director."

The petition, asking for the resignations, is a very confusing document. It accuses the staff of being inefficient and unproductive; yet it encourages them to reapply for their previous positions. Any reasonable person would wonder why, if a staff member is incompetent would the board consider rehiring them? And why, if you are going to rehire them, would they be fired in the first place?

Nick Heyer

**Ruth Taylor and Betty Tocchi of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corp.**

**Political Control**

The apparent answer to these questions is that the clique which dominates the FHNC board wants to get rid of those staff members they can't politically control. The chance of a staffer retaining a job at the FHNC seems to be in direct relationship to how subservient he or she is to certain board members. Thus, the action of the board looks like a move to weed out any staffers who are preventing them from tightening their political and economic hold over the Fair Haven community.

Those board members who signed the petition are either ambitious minor functionaries in the Democratic Party or members of the landlord dominated Fair Haven Project Area Committee. They represent the established political and economic interests of the area.

Board members who signed the petition are: Joseph Carbone, Angelo DeLucia, Anthony Fusco, Angelo DeMatteo, Frank Nasti, Sal Adinolfi, Sal Fusco, Eleanor Marlow, Michael Pappacoda, Andrew Proto, William Seward, Alphonse Rauccio, Pasquale D'Agostino, Betsy Price and Richard Nuzzo.

**Staff to Fight Back**

The staff is fighting the board's ouster however. They have no intention of resigning and deeply resent the characterization of their efforts as "ineffective." The staff appears to have a lot going for it in the upcoming battle.

In the first place, the board's make-up violates Office of Economic Opportunity guidelines for anti-poverty agencies. The guidelines state that 51 percent of the board members must be poverty level people. The FHNC's board has one person on the poverty level out of 23. This comes out to only four percent; far short of the required 51 percent.

Secondly, no specific charges were made against any staffer. Such charges are required, along with sufficient time to prepare an answer before any employee in a federally funded program, such as the FHNC, is dismissed.

Additionally, there must be an appeal process available to any dismissed employee. Since the Board of Directors ordered the dismissals, they can't act as a review body. Thus, still another regulation has been violated. Also, at any review hearing, the staffers can be represented by a lawyer and have the right to cross examine their accusers.

**Accusations Difficult to Understand**

The board's accusations are difficult to understand. They have had numerous opportunities to voice dissatisfaction with any staffer. Yet, no complaint was voiced at any board meeting or to any staff member. In fact, the board a couple of months ago cited the staff for outstanding service to the community. To now call them incompetent is puzzling.

Staff members contend they are being fired because they service primarily the Black and Puerto Rican sections of Fair Haven. The board members, however, have other priorities. They want the FHNC to become an arm of city hall and to serve the vested interests of the community.

The loosers once again are all the residents of Fair Haven. For past experience has shown that they suffer when people who claim to have the "real interest" of the community at heart are, in reality, exploiting them.

# Day Care Workers' Union Fights Paternalistic Boss

**by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 1303.**

Local 1303 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees resumed picketing on Tuesday November 19, at the Children's Center because management refused to budge on the Union's right to grieve on employees wage evaluations. A negotiating session last Friday produced no result other than an offer to the Union that a senior union staff member could take part in the evaluation process and the aggrieved employee could go to the Executive Director.

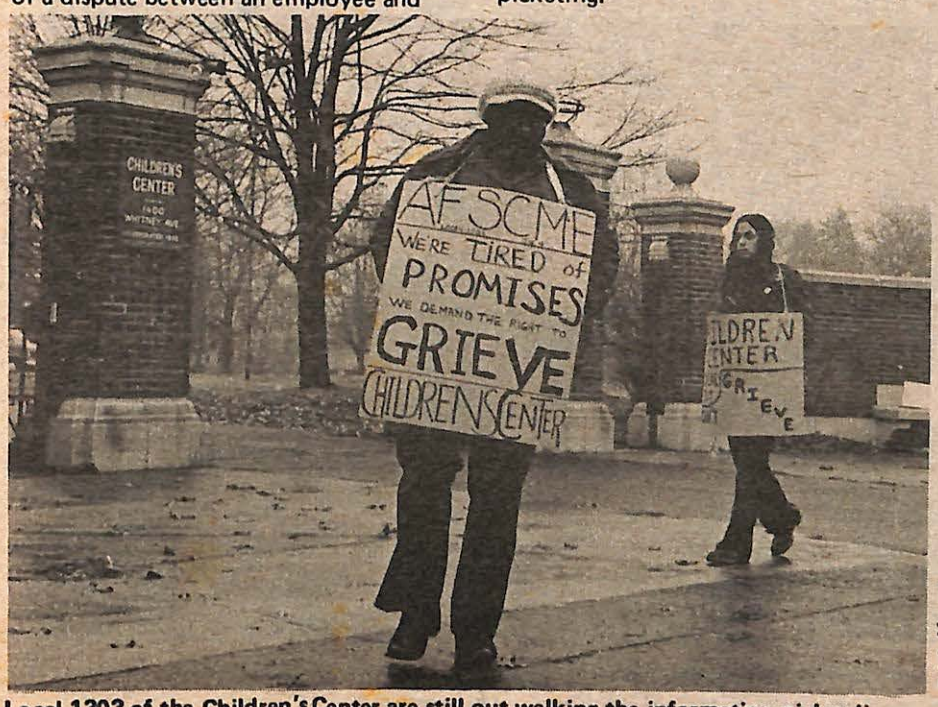
The wage reopener offer by the Center was a system of merit increases subject to evaluation by management. The Union, however, would have no recourse to its grievance procedure in the event an employee disputed his/her evaluation.

A Union spokesman stated that the Center is "trying to divide our employees. We are not going to stick our individual union members in the middle of a dispute between an employee and management. The grievance procedure and the recognition clause of our contract already give the Union the right to grieve on wages, and we are not going to give it up."

A proposal to individually take our problems to the Executive Director of the Institution smacks of company unionism. It is an effort to wipe out our union in order to keep the issue of the one big happy family of the Children's Center. It took a lot of negotiating to get our grievance procedure provided for collective bargaining and arbitration. We are unanimous in not giving it up."

"The Center has lost an arbitration case that resulted in a discharged employee being reinstated with all back pay. This was the first grievance we filed as a union, and the Center just cannot accept the decision. We formed a union because the Center would not deal with us and we are not going to give it up now.

The union is in its third week of picketing.




Nick Heyer

**Local 1303 of the Children's Center are still out walking the information picket line.**

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# CPI Sued for Shady Election Tactics

Nick Heyer

Mrs. Catherine Quinn

**by Modern Times Staff**

Mrs. Catherine Quinn has sued Michael Poppacoda and Community Progress Incorporated (CPI), after her election to the CPI board was declared invalid. Testimony offered by witnesses in the Quinn trial indicated widespread irregularities in the second election.

Quinn was denied a seat on the CPI board when a CPI monitor voided her first election victory. However, testimony disclosed that no one from CPI was assigned to oversee the first election. Since no one was assigned, by CPI, to observe the election, how could the agency invalidate it? An interesting question which no CPI representative could answer.

**Did Not Question Election**

Carlene Williams, executive director of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation (FHNC), stated that prior to counting the ballots, in the first election, there was a discussion of problems which had occurred during the day. Those present concluded in spite of some problems the election was "legal" and the vote should be counted.

Among those taking part in the discussion were: Carlene Williams, Joseph Carbone, Democratic Party chairman of the 13th ward, Frank Nasti, president of the Project Area Committee and Richard Nuzzo, FHNC president. Quinn was declared the victor 178 to 127 and left the FHNC office under the assumption she won the seat.

However, later that evening, Nuzzo phoned Quinn to tell her a second election would be held. Quinn learned, a short time later, that she would be denied her rightful seat on the CPI board. Quinn attempted to regain her seat. A second election was run; however, this time Poppacoda emerged the victor 295 to 251.

**Irregularities Cited**

Statements, by witnesses appearing for Quinn, described numerous irregularities in the second election.

In one instance, a young Spanish-speaking woman was stopping Hispanic people on the street in front of a polling place. Specifically, the one located outside the Fair Haven Health Clinic, located on Grand Avenue in an area with a heavy concentration of Hispanic people. She aided them in filling out the ballot and was heard urging them to vote for Poppacoda. This was the polling place which cost Quinn the election.

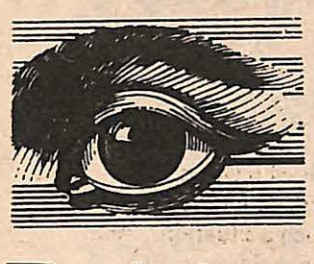
Also, two witnesses stated that apparently Harold Peterson, a CPI employee who monitored the second election, had been drinking on election day. Others, present at the vote counting, said that Peterson fell asleep during the tabulation. Therefore, he might not have been in any condition to place a stamp of approval on the second election.

**Conclusion**

Quinn's attorney, Michael Avery, summed up his case by pointing out that "the inevitable fate of neighborhood elections is that there's going to be a certain slippage in rules and procedures." Avery indicated that while there may have been irregularities in the first election, those in the second were so pervasive that its result should be invalidated.

He, also, objected to a third election being ordered: "We could have 16 or 17 elections and see some infraction of rules." Avery concluded by saying: "I would ask your honor to disallow the second election and reinstate the first."

Written briefs were filed in the case on November 27. A decision is expected around the first of the year.



## eye on the board

# Training Hacks No Help

**by Andrew J. Esposito**
*Modern Times Staff*

An interesting resolution was offered to the Board of Aldermen at their November meeting. Submitted by Christopher Shanon (D-5), the resolution calls for training election day workers to tabulate better the votes in general elections. The proposed measure will be referred to committee for study.

The measure was evidently the Democrats' response to complaints, voiced on election night, by chief Republican moderator Charles Constanzo. He accused the election workers of incompetence and negligence in carrying out their duties. Election day workers are currently appointed through the Registrar of Voters' office. This means that they are really appointed by the political party leaders.

**Form of Patronage**

Therein lies the rub. These jobs are essentially a pay-off to people who have been "good party workers," or who are able to turn out the party faithful on election day. Therefore, they are a form of political patronage awarded by both the Republican and Democratic parties.

In reality, there is nothing very complicated about taking voting totals off a machine, adding them up, and reporting the results to a central office. It appears that simple instructions, given on election eve, would be sufficient. Additionally, most poll workers have been doing the same job year after year; to conclude they suddenly need training is absurd.

We should, therefore, ask ourselves: "Why have these workers suddenly been attacked by the incompetence bug?" One answer might be that the existing political parties have simply "gone stale." They have had their own way for so long that their workers have become complacent. Also, the leaders dole out election day jobs on the basis of who is a good party worker; not on the basis of competence.

This approach leads, inevitably, to less able people being appointed as election day officials. When viewed in this light, the confusion of election day should not come as a surprise.

**Attitude Carries Over**

The disturbing aspect of the negligence evident on elction day and night is not what happened during one particular election; but rather, what it demonstrates about how city government functions. The syndrome of appointing "good party workers" carries over into the municipal bureaucracy. The primary criteria for securing a city job is not, "can the candidate perform?" but is she or he acceptable to the party leaders. This criteria leads to woefully inept people, who in turn fail to run efficient departments or delivery poor quality services to the citizens of New Haven.

A case in point is Community Progress Incorporated (CPI). The anti-poverty agency, which was bad enough when it was a semi-independent beast, has since being taken over by city hall become the leading repository for political hacks in this area. So much so, that both federal and state funding is being cut. Such action was long overdue; it should have happened long ago.

CPI has never represented the interest and aspirations of city residents. It has destroyed neighborhoods and given lip-service to community needs. At the same time, the agency has given a few people enormous political power. So, in no way should its rumored passing out of existence cause any sorrow.

**Change in Power Needed**

The way to prevent needed programs from following CPI's path is clear. Hire competent people to plan and run them. It's a simple and straight-foward solution. However, the performance of the existing political powers have

# Yale Workers Pass New Union Contract

*Modern Times Staff*

On November 15th, the rank and file of Local 35, Federation of University Employees, AFL-CIO, voted overwhelmingly to accept a new three year contract with Yale University.

The new package is the culmination of a ten week strike last summer and the extensive study by an impartial fact-finder, whose recommendations were finally accepted by the University on November 12.

Highlighting the gains won by the Union is the cost of living adjustment of "1½ cents per hour for each point increase in the Consumer Price Index over the May, 1974 base period reading of 145.6"

An equally significant victory for Local 35 was achieved in the area of union membership. As of ratification, all regularly scheduled employees, including students, must join the union 30 days after their day of hire, regardless of the number of hours each works.

Gains were also registered in the seniority system, health coverage and wages. An across the board wage increase of 7% was ratified.

In commenting on the new contract, Don Pogue, one of the lawyers for the Local, stated that, "it's really an excellent contract. It contains some substantial improvements over the 1971 contract, which was already a very good one."

Nick Heyer

**Local 35 members are shown at work. The Union recently ratified the new contract which is labeled "much better than the old."**

# money talks

# No Way Out of Vicious Business Cycle

**by Rick Wolff**
*Modern Times Staff*

*This is a summary of a talk by Richard Wolff,* **Modern Times** *staff economist. The talk, "Inflation, Depression and Working People," was delivered on November 4 to New Haven's Central Labor Council.*

The facts on this economy's severe troubles are too well known to need repeating here. [A 12 percent rate of inflation in 1974, unemployment expected to zoom up to 8 percent or higher next year, and all-time record high levels of consumer debts (payments due on mortages, car loans, personal loans and installment purchases)--these facts hit at all of us from every side.] But why is this economy so sick? And where are we going next? Is there a cure and will it be worse than the sickness? These questions need answers.

A hundred years ago, Americans were talking about the economic depression of 1873-74. The U.S. has been having regular ups and downs--the business cycle--ever since. The worst hit in 1929 so that by 1932, unemployment had risen to 25 percent--one out of every four Americans was unemployed. Right now, Americans find themselves in another down-time of the economy. It is the 7th downturn since the end of World War II. Only this one promises to be the worst since the War.

**Business Cycles**

There are special reasons why this is the worst recession. Under normal circumstances, the business cycles in the American economy work like this: a few years of prosperity lead employers to hire more workers to fill up their shop and office space, to use all the equipment, and to increase production. Profits are the goal and profits are the result. But after the prosperity lasts a few years, the employers start to run into problems. Those problems mark the start of the downturn.

**"Gentlemen, in times like these we must all make sacrifices — let's lay off another 500."**

First, the employers run out of the luxury of increasing production by using up shop and office space and tools and equipment that had just been sitting idle. To keep output rising, the employers now need to buy new space, new equipment. The great expense of these leads the employers to borrow heavily at high interest rates. To put it in a nutshell, the employers face rising costs of further production and so they start raising prices and trying to get more out of their workers: speed-up. Then the workers start to fight back. Unions take a look at company profits, feel the speed-up and know the pain of rising prices. So unions demand higher wages.

**Recession**

Put it all together--rising costs of production, rising interest rates, and then the rising wages and prices--and the result is to turn prosperity into recession. The profits of the employers start to shrink. The employers react by cutting back production since profits are low. Workers are laid off and so purchase less. This leads other firms to face shrinking sales, falling profits. They too lay off their workers. Unemployment grows, recession deepens and full-scale depression may be just around the corner.

Eventually, when enough workers are laid off so that those who still have jobs are fearful of striking because they might lose those scarce jobs--then wages stop rising and start falling. With falling wages, some companies can see profits again, leading them to increase production. Prosperity becomes possible again.

**False Prosperity**

*Up and down, up and down, if you forget about the pain and hardships of those who have to lose their jobs, you can look at the economy as a boat on a rocky sea. But suppose the government did not dare allow a downturn for fear of the political backlash. That was the case in 1965, 1966, and 1967. Those years were going to be a period of economic downturn, but the government never let it happen. The reason was Vietnam. America entered into a war that many Americans didn't like. The people in Washington decided that to couple a not-so-popular war with a recession or depression would be political suicide for the politicians in charge. So they didn't let the economic downturn happen. Lyndon Johnson and the Democrats didn't and Richard Nixon and the Republicans didn't. Both decided instead to pump billions of new money into the economy to keep it up.*

Massive injections of money kept the U.S. economy from turning down from 1965 to 1973. But the cost of using money that way was an inflation that started by creeping and is now galloping. And when the inflation threatened to make U.S. goods so expensive that neither foreigners nor Americans were any longer willing to buy them, the companies called on Nixon to do something. He tried. He declared the wage-price freeze in August 1971, but it was so successful in freezing wages and so unsuccessful in freezing prices that it had to be dropped by Nixon by early 1973. As a politician he knew most people were against it.

**What Now?**

By late 1973 and early 1974, the economy looked to be in worse and worse shape. Inflation could not go on, but what could or can be done?

There are two choices. Either the government can now allow the recession to work its way out or the government can go again into tougher wage-price controls. The problem is that since the war in Vietnam meant that the recession of 1965-67 was delayed by massive money injections, the recession now would be deeper and longer since it has many extra years to offset. Will any politician, especially a President who wants to get elected in 1976, dare to lead the country into such a situation? And what about wage-price controls? We have been that route once before in recent times and workers are rightly distrustful of the results. AFL-CIO President George Meany says that workers will not accept wage-price controls unless they include real, tough profit controls as well. But the big American corporations react to ideas like Meany's by hinting that if profits are held down here, they will just move their factories and offices overseas even faster than they've been doing in recent decades. And that would worsen unemployment. And then what?

**Big Question**

So which way will it go--bad recession or tough controls? That's the big question being debated in the offices of the big corporations and the political leaders in Washington. They are making up their mind and our futures. The only certain thing now is that either way, some very tough times are ahead in our economy and in our political life.

*Author's note: In this talk I restricted myself to the possibilities of dealing with our current economic crisis within the rules of our economic system, the profit system. A different system which didn't make profit but human need its basis would have different and far better ways of solving this crisis and preventing future ones.*

# Miners Pull the Switch

**by Modern Times Staff**

"Totally unacceptable," Impractical." Gives the union "a veto over basic management decisions." That's how the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) reacted to the United Mine Workers' (UMW) demands on job safety and work procedures in early October.

"Coal will be mined safely — or not at all!" That's how UMW President Arnold Miller responds to the present working conditions in the mines.

At press time, the two sides were still far apart, especially on the key job safety demands, but also on wages, pensions, strip mining regulations and other issues. Whether or not a compromise is hammered out before November 12, the new settlement in coal will be crucial for American labor.

The union's victory or defeat will not only shape the lives of 120,000 coal miners, but will also determine the chances for continuing the labor militance of recent months.

**Mine Safety**

Coal miners have good reason to be concerned about job safety. A miner is killed on the job every other day, on the average. Many more contract black lung disease, accounting for 3,000 deaths annually. Underground coal mining causes 41 disabling injuries for every million hours of work, four times the average for all industry.

The union demands most unacceptable to the coal operators are largely safety demands. The UMW wants to guarantee the right of any miner to refuse work he or she considers dangerous, expand the power of local union safety committees, increase the number of miners required for hazardous jobs... and allow union locals to strike over local grievances. Not surprisingly, the BCOA strongly opposes all these proposals.

**Other Demands: "Catching UP"**

The union describes this year as one of "catching up." Miners' real incomes are now less than they were in 1971 when the last contract was negotiated. They have fallen behind unionized workers in other heavy industries.

The UMW is seeking a wage increase, cost-of-living escalator clause and improved sick pay and holiday benefits. The costs would be "astronomical," says the BCOA.

The pension a miner can 'look forward to' after twenty years of labor is currently $37.50 per week — less than welfare! The UMW wants a tripling in the royalties companies pay to the union's Welfare and Retirement Fund, from 80 cents to $2.40 per ton of coal mined.

**Strip Mining**

Strip mining, a rapidly expanding part of the coal industry, poses special problems for the UMW. Stripping threatens miners' jobs. With the newest machinery, one surface miner can produce as much coal as up to 15 underground miners.

Many strip mines are in the West, where the UMW has never been strong. An, of course, stripping shatters the

*see MINES page 8*

# editorial
# Deny Rocky VP Post

It seems clear that Nelson Rockefeller will be confirmed to the Vice-Presidency of the United States. In the course of the Senate inquiry, it was learned that since 1957, a total of $24 million in "charitable" contributions were handed out to organizations and people in and out of the political spotlight.

There is an old game in politics that goes like this: where there is big money, politicians will spend it to get themselves elected, to increase their influences, and to help their friends (in both political and private life.) This game is still being played by the same old people.

Where there is money there is power! The Rockefellers' trust is valued at about $220 billion. They control about $250 billion worth of corporate wealth. This amounts to 20% of the following industries: Pan Am, Eastern, IBM, CBS, Borden, AT&T, Kimberly-Clark, Anaconda (Largest copper mine), Chase Manhattan Bank, American Express and all the oil companies which compose the Standard Oil Company. These are but a few of the corporations that the Rockefellers control. They also control over 20% of the national banking in this country.

The money arm of the Rockefeller Trust not only controls most of America; but it also has found a foothold in several countries of what they call among themselves, the "free-world": Chile, Iran, Venezuelo, Arabia, Columbia and Indonesia.

In a capitalist society such as we have, the controlling wealth is in the hands of very few. Along with the Rockefellers, we can put the Duponts, the Reynolds, the Kaisers, the Olins, the Kennedys, the Mellons all of whom share the wealth of America.

These are the ruling forces of this country. With their money and its power, these people determine what, who, and how we are to live. They buy and sell whatever they want. Few current politicians, as we have discovered, seem too proud to "take" a loan, to sell political power. Few seem too conscientious about the welfare of the American people.

Most of Rockefeller's gifts seem to be motivated by his self-confessed desire to keep "good" men in politics. The people he has bought either on a political or private level are some of the most influential in this country.

This "old game" is now blatant. With the current scandals of Watergate, milk pricefixing and oil ripoffs, it seems clear that what's "good" for Rockefeller is not good for the country. We at *MODERN TIMES* reject the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President. If we let this man directly control the second most influential post in this country, giving up still more of the political control we have over multi-millionaires.

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**MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editors.**

**MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions from the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.**

**MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.**

**This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.**

**The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.**

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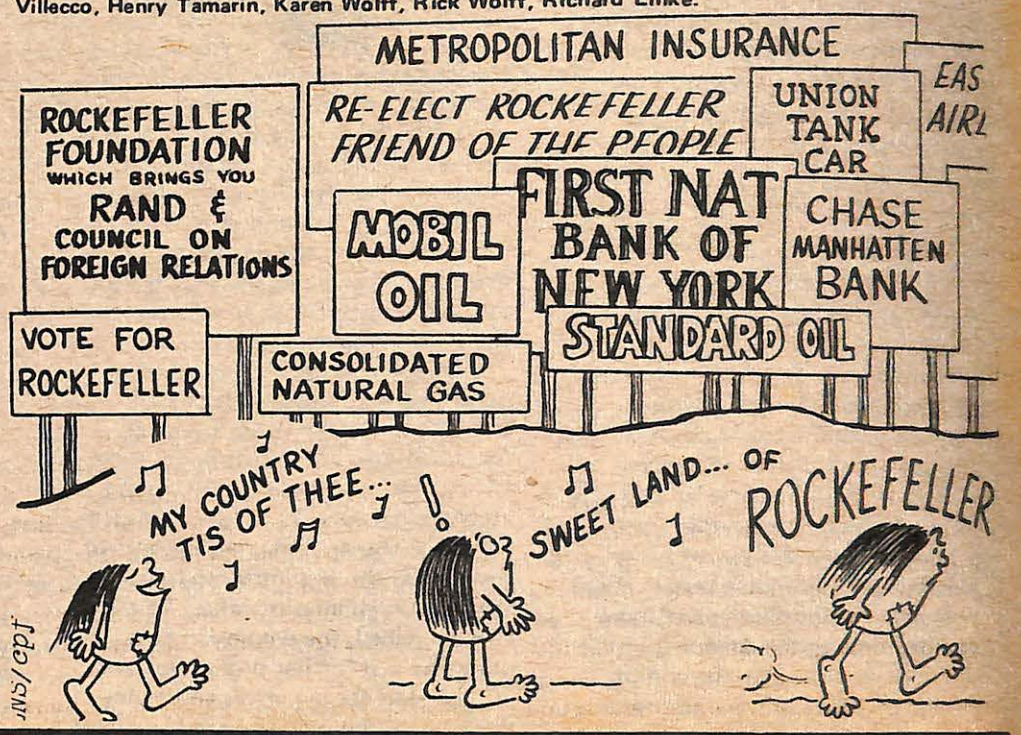



# brass tacks
# How Rocky Travelled Smooth Road to Power

**by Mike F. Holodnak**
*Modern Times Staff*

President Gerald Ford, who was elected by ex-President Nixon, has elected Nelson Rockefeller to be Vice-President. Whether Rockefeller will be confirmed or not remains to be seen.

Yet, in reality, it will make very little difference which way it goes. If Rockefeller is confirmed, it will bring him a step closer to more direct power and will allow him the added luxury of dispensing with many flunkies and middlemen. But, in either case, he will continue to run this country and influence and direct our foreign policy for the sole purpose of perpetuating his own vast fortune.

During World War II, in an effort to keep monopoly from footdragging, President Franklin Roosevelt was forced to load his administration with the representatives of Wall Street who eventually took over.

Edward Stettinius, chairman of United States Steel and vice-president of General Motors, became Secretary of State while Bernard Baruch, Nelson Rockefeller, Dean Rusk, as well as scores of oil executives, dozens of vice-presidents of steel and auto, and hundreds of other businessmen and their lawyers took over positions of control in the awarding of war contracts and deciding policies.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who currently handles this country's foreign policy, has served in Rockefeller's employ as "foreign policy advisor" and as a consultant to the Rockefeller-dominated Council on Foreign Relations.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Kissinger's predecessor, was president of the Rockefeller foundation. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, was a Rockefeller lawyer and president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Secretary of State Dean Acheson was a top Rockefeller lawyer.

**Rockefeller's Foreign Policy**

The following events will give the reader some idea of what our foreign policy is all about.

In 1959, the largest U.S. business in South Vietnam was Standard Vacuum Oil Company (jointly owned by two Rockefeller corporations).

In 1961, economic agreements provided for the protection of U.S. business in South Vietnam.

In 1962, Esso Standard Eastern (a Rockefeller affiliate) and Shell Oil agreed to build a large refinery in South Vietnam.

On September 9, 1965, an ad in **The New York Times** , signed by David Rockefeller and others, supported President Johnson's request to defend mounting escalation of the Vietnam War.

Also in that year, an official of the Rockefeller-owned Chase Manhattan bank stated that the "U.S. actions in Vietnam this year have considerably reassured both Asia and Western investors."

By 1967, according to **Business Week,** both Chase Manhattan and the Bank of America opened more branches there, stating, "If it weren't for the massive U.S. presence there, probably neither would be in Vietnam."

From 1965 to 1971, Chase Manhattan's assets went up from $12 billion to $23 billion, and who said war was hell?

**Rockefeller's Domestic Policies**

Also, on the domestic front, Rockefeller is constantly enhancing his wealth and power through the simple act of lavish gift-giving to various government officials.

For example, he gave a $510,000 "gift" to William Ronan at a time when the latter was in a position to facilitate an enormously lucrative arrangement between the New York Port Authority and the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Naturally, President Ford, who has accepted this way of life, came to Rockefeller's aid by saying that Rockefeller had nothing to be ashamed of.

"There was no political chicanery involved at all," Ford added. "He was generous to people he thought ought to be helped."

Among the other white-washers was Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott who said to Rockefeller, "Nothing has been said here to warrant adverse finding against you."

Of course, Congress, which represents the monopolists, will gloss over Rockefeller's very smelly record.

When Rockefeller was governor, he had made life for welfare recipients even more miserable than it already was. At Attica, rather than bargain with the prisoners over their inhumne prison conditions, he ordered a massacre that killed 43 unarmed prisoners and hostages. Also Rockefeller money which was funnelled through a "dummy" corporation and routed through Philadelphia and Washington to conceal Rockefeller involvement, was used in the publication of an uncomplimentary book about Arthur J. Goldberg, his 1970 Democratic opponent for governor.

After being confronted with the evidence on the book, Rockefeller accepted full responsibility and said his involvement was a mistake uncharacteristic of the traditions of the family.

**Bloody History**

But here again, a look at the record reveals that his acts were quite characteristic.

During the Civil War, John D. Rockefeller, in his early twenties, avoided the draft simply by paying $300 for a substitute and, while the war raged, he freely looted the country's natural resources.

During the 1877 depression he and a handful of other business tycoons had absorbed hundreds of competitors.

During the 1893 depression, which lasted four years, these tycoons absorbed even more of the country. John D. picked up the Mesabi iron ore range for a song, forming the Lake Superior Consolidated Ore Mines Company.

In 1892, John D. sent congratulations to Henry Frick for breaking a steel strike by killing workers in what is now known as the Homestead Massacre.

Then in 1914, following in his father's footsteps, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. took full responsibility for the Ludlow Coal Mine Massacre where women and children were shot and burned.

Now it looks like this blood-soaked fortune will probably get Nelson, not the electric chair in the big house, but the plush chair in the White House.

By the way, who said crime does not pay?

# Why Do Media Dunk Women's Hoop Teams?

by Edward Breuler
*Modern Times Staff*

For forty trivia points, can you guess the first intercollegiate basketgame played in this country? If you answered, 'In 1896 between the University of Chicago and the University of Iowa and Chicago won 15-12', you're wrong!

Don't feel bad, I guessed Walla-Walla and the University of William and Mary in 1875. (Basketball was not invented until November 1891 by James Naismith. Happy Birthday Basketball.) The first game played in this country was between California and Stanford in April of 1895. Both teams consisted of women.

**First College Game**

Exactly 101 years after that game, women's basketball will be an event at the 1976 Olympics for the first time. Why such a long dormant period? Well, why did it take so long for women to get the right to vote? Why so long until we had our nation's first woman governor (not preceded by a relative)? Why so long for equal rights? And sports, like politics, will have its day of reckoning, in 1976.

These tidbits of information caused me to inquire into the present state of women's basketball.

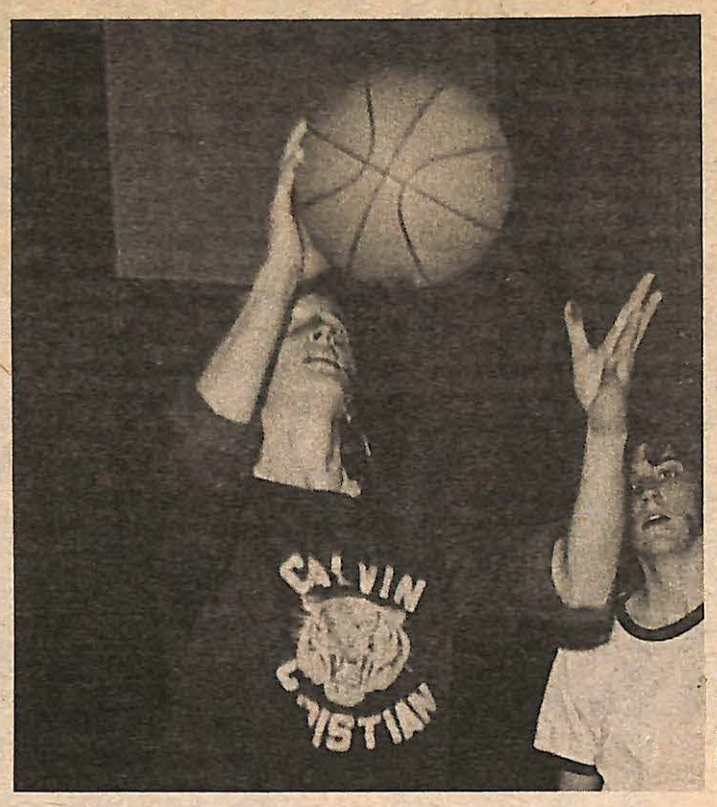
One important aspect of women's basketball is that it is no longer played as though women were made of glass. Several changes have been made and some are: (1) there are no longer six players on a team; before, only three players of either team were allowed on either side of the court. Three offensive players on one side and three players on defense on the other side (women were not thought of as very physical people and were not capable of running the entire length of the court); (2) not using the 'rover' system. One player on either team is allowed to cross the midcourt line and run all over the court; (3) they have now adopted 'international' rules--that is they now play with five players on a team; and (4) posession of the ball is limited to thirty seconds.

At Southern Connecticut State College in New Haven, we have one of the greatest teams in the country. Coached by Louise O'Neil, SCSC's coach for thirteen years, she has compiled a record of 110 wins and 27 losses, an 80% win/lose record. (Coach John Wooden of UCLA has about the same percentage.)

**High National Rank**

As a team, Southern has achieved very high status in the area of women's basketball. Since the founding of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIWA) six years ago, Southern has been involved six times in the national tournament and placed third in the national standings three times.

Mary Anne O'Connor




Nick Heyer

Sue Rojceivitz

This year, according to Smith and Street (publishers of a basketball magazine which predicts standings for teams and individuals for the coming year), Southern is listed as third in the nation. Also, this is the first year that Street and Smith is listing women's teams and players in their standings.

Additionally, they have listed two Southern seniors as all-Americans. Mary Anne O'Connor is the center on the team. She began playing basketball in her freshman year in high school. Last summer, Mary Anne was a starter on the US National Team which toured the states with the Russian team. This spring she will be invited back to try out for the team again. That team will take part in the 1975 Pan Am games. If she's successful there, the Olympics are not far behind.

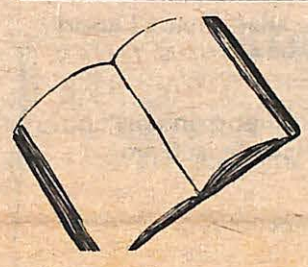
Sue Rojceivitz, a native of Worcester, Mass., is a starting guard. She began to play the game in her second year of high school. She was picked as a reserve on the National team and will also be invited back to make the team again.

**Women's Sports Growing**

Even though we have a very successful team here in New Haven, women's basketball is still in an embryonic stage. It wasn't until last year that Connecticut held its first women's tournament as the high school level. And it wasn't until this year that women's teams were ranked in preseason magazines. The outcomes of these games are not mentioned in any of the media. Would Dick Galliette of Channel 8 announce such a thing? The beer cans tumble to the carpet. Would Jim Bouton of Channel 2. Hey, MODERN TIMES will!

The sorry truth is that women's sports are always played down. No scores, no films, little national prominence, less money to support hundreds of college teams and thousands of women who partake of the opportunity to play. Southern will paly six games at home this year at the Pelz Gym on the Southern campus.

The Northeast Regionals Tournament will be held at SCSC. The games are free. The basketball is good. After all, we are all involved in Progress, hey Naismith baby.



## review

# A Woman's Hard Life

by Karen Rosenberg

*"Daughter of Earth" by Agnes Smedley, The Feminist Press, 1973, Box 334 Old Westbury, New York 11568 $2.50*

*Daughter of Earth* is written as the autobiography of a woman who grew up in early twentieth-century America, doubly damned by being poor and female. The young woman who tells her story, Marie Rogers, sees sees herself as a socialist and a feminist and, in describing her past life, she brings forth the factors that led her to this self-definition. In other words, the end of the book shapes the entire story. This explains why *Daughter of Earth* holds together so well as a novel. Marie Rogers doesn't relate experiences selected at random; every event prepares us for her later decision.

Childhood is no rosy time for the heroine and narrator of this novel. She watches her father mistreat her mother, drinking away his income and her aunt turns to prostitution to support the family. From this Marie deduces that marriage is slavery with no reward and that women who earn their own money, by any means, are more free than those who are dependent on men. This is a surprising conclusion and it was undoubtedly more shocking in 1929 when **Daughter of Earth** was first published. But because the difficult girhood is so powerfully described, one can understand how Marie Rogers could reach this position.

**Hard Decisions and Cliches**

The heroine then relates how she abandoned her two brothers to the care of their irresponsible father because she did not want to sacrifice her life for her family as her mother had done. Since Marie had already depicted the hopeless plight of rural women who attempt to support a family singlehandedly, the reader is prepared for and perhaps even sympathetic with her choice.

These are some of the startling experiences and ideas presented in this book. Unfortunately, the novel is also full of cliches which reduce its effect on the reader. The love scenes between Marie and an Indian revolutionary, Anand, are reminiscient of a cheap novel, ("His arms were about me. I struggled within myself, but my body was weak....A feeling, as if I could sweep the stars, lightly, tenderly, obsesses me and fought against the fear that held me.") The symbolism is often obvious and hackneyed. This is a seriously flawed novel.

**Historical Interest**

However, **Daughter of Earth** has historical interest as a classic in the development of American feminist and socialist thought. I have called this book the autobiography of Marie Rogers since she tells the story in the first person. Of,course, Agnes Smedley is the real author of the work. Smedley's sympathy for the oppressed, whether workers or women, led her to Russia and China in the '20's and '30's. The books she wrote about her experiences abroad, cindlu
periences abroad including **China's Red Army Marches,** were considered subversive in the '50's and therefore are now out of print and available in very few libraries.

How much of Marie Roger's story is actually Agnes Smedley's life, I do not know and neither, I dare say, does anyone else. But it is not really important whether these events actually happened to her. The point is that they could have occurred in hundreds of places to thousands of women. In **Daughter of Earth** , Agnes Smedley shows why and how an American woman of the early twentieth century might have become a committed radical. For this reason, it is a book worth reading.

# Long Wharf Troupe Wanders Astray

Courtesy of the Long Wharf Theatre

**Davis Byrd(L) as Venturewell hears a plea from his worthless apprentice, Michael Mullins, for the hand of his daughter in "The Knight of the Burning Pestle."**

by Alice Mattison

The Long Wharf Theater should forget about wandering players. In its current production of *The Soldier's Tale* (Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat)* and *The Knight of the Burning Pestle (*an adaptation of the Beaumont and Fletcher play), we are encouraged to believe that we are seeing an age-old troupe called The Tribe of Ahasuerus, which has been wandering about performing for untold centuries. (The Long Wharf based its recent and rather strained children's play on the same notion, except that in that case the wanderers were troubadours and wore brighter colors.

At the beginning of the evening, the actors lope onto the stage in standard wandering-player fashion, swinging slowly from side to side and wearing limp brown cloaks. They push their stage into place, revealing a brilliant set by Paul Zalon, one of the Long Wharf's best ever and perform **The Soldier's Tale**, which is unsuccessful but appropriate to the travelling player notion, and **The Knight of the Burning Pestle,** which is wonderful but which would not be a likely choice for a real wandering theater.

**Simplicity is not Easy**

The pretense of itinerant theater suggests timelessness; the performance is presumably eternally significant, capable of being performed in many places, by simple people, for ordinary folk. Thus we find stock characters, often with familiar names and strong emotive significance--devils, kings and so forth. There is a careful simplicity an unbroken surface. Each character represents what he represents flatly, without subtlety or contradiction. Power comes if it comes, from the precision with which age-old human situations are conveyed in a few words or one incident.

There is always the danger, however, of falling into banality or tedium. **The Soldier's Tale** falls into both. It is simple without having the virtues of simplicity. A princess, for example, whose character is minimal, reveals herself in a dance, but doesn't dance very well. The devil, who should be the incarnation of temptation, just isn't terribly tempting--and, of course, he is not a rounded character; he has no other traits with which to interest us. The translation of the play is forced and unoriginal; I found myself predicting its obvious rhymes. Although the music is exciting, the play itself is not.

**A Play About A Play**

The other obvious characteristic of the travelling player motif is its selfconsciousness. It is a way of reminding the audience that what is being seen is in fact a play--and yet since the players playing players are still players, one may be drawn, if such is one's temperament, into marvelous inner dialogues about reality and illusion. With **The Knight of the Burning Pestle** such dialogues become even more delicious since that play is itself a play about a play.

A naive and strongwilled couple from a seventeenth century audience, who are themselves apt to confuse illusion and reality, interrupt a romantic comedy and insist that the players include the assistant from their grocery, Rafe. Rafe proceeds to play a bumbling knight confusing further the events of the already confusing drama, but, indeed, giving it a more middle-class feeling.

There are funny exchanges between the citizens and the annoyed players, and between the wife and the characters they play. There is a great moment when the sympathetic citizen's wife and a much victimized female character in the play fall into each other's arms, like women anywhere sharing their troubles. The entire play is performed well, the songs are excellent, with only a few obviously jarring twentieth century additions, and the decent English of Beaumont and Fletcher is pleasing to the ear after the awkward script of **The Soldier's Tale.** Cathryn Damon as the Citizen's Wife and Linda Hunt as the Youth are especially commendable; Peter Schickele's music is splendid.

**Could Choose Better**

This sort of play, though, could scarcely be performed by real traveling players. It is complex, sophisticated and highly detailed. Some of the characters are fairly subtle. The plot is ingenious. It would be confusing and overcomplicated in a market ~~place~~. Although the Elizabethan and Jacobean theater for which Beaumont and Fletcher wrote was noisy and indecorous, it was still a highly artful, settled, multi-faceted venture, more like the Long Wharf itself than like a mime troupe.

## Community Calendar

**Dec. 4** **Daycare in Cuba.** A talk by author Marvin Leiner sponsored by The Childcare Organizing Group. 37n Howe St. at 8 pm. Donation $1.50.

**Thurs. Dec 5** **Project Limbo: What is the Future of Corrections?** Concerns the results of imprisonment and the problems of re-integrating the punished individuals into society. New ideas in corrections. Should prisons be abolished altogether? What are the alternatives? At the University of New Haven, E120 – Engineering Building.

**Sat. Dec 7** **Conn. Women's Political Caucus.** Speakers Workshop for Women. Presented to increase your effectiveness in public speaking on the Women's Movement and Women in Politics. At the University of Bridgeport. $10 fee. For info contact Rona Finizie, 2440 North Ave., Bridgeport. 335-0436

**Sunday Dec. 8** **National Coalition of Labor Women.(CLUW).** Introductory meeting. A New Haven chapter of CLUW is being organized. CLUW's goals are: 1) to orgainze unorganized women; 2) encourage affirmative action at the workplace; 3)encourage participation of women with their unions; 4) encourage women to work for political and legislative action. Come to the meeting. 4 pm at 45 Water St. For info contact Renee Poirier Local 1303-776-0846, Kathy Foley Local 329, 865-2509 or Debbie Anderson, Loacl 217, 865-8580.

**Monday Dec. 9** **Exhibit Lecture Services. Moshe Safdie.** The black Environi Study Team(BEST) is bringing MOSHE SAFDIE to New Haven with films, exhibits and a talk at the Art and Architecture Building, second floor at 8 pm. Exhibits will be up at the A&A and 55 Church St. from Dec.2-9. For more info contact BEST 436-8168.

**Tues. Dec. 10** **Rick Master: Poet, Folksinger, Philosopher.** A special treat sponsored by the First Unitarian Universalist Siciety at 8 pm, 608 Whitney Av. Admission $2 adults, $1 students.

**Every Day** **Rotating Exhibit and Gallery Space.** The Arts Council of Greater New Haven, Inc. has just opened a gallery at the renovated McLagen Foundry at 33 Whitney Av. The firsr show show features works by Roger Van Damme, Jane Willoughby. Nancy Eisenfield, Flo Hatcher and Hedwig Lindsay.

**Wed. Dec 11** **Dr. Caleb Gettegno: Awareness, The Only Educable Component in Man.** The developer of The Subordination of Teaching to Learning (used at the High School in the Community and other programs in New Haven) presents a workshop on learning from 4:00-10:00 pm. $10 fee. Please make reservations through the Teacher Center - 776-5987

**At the Women's Center.** Sundays at 2:30 Divorce and Separation Rap Groups; Mondays at 5:30 Women's Self Defense and at 8:00 Lesbian Rap Group; Tuesdays at 8:00 Open Rap Group; Thursday at 8:00 Women vs Conn. and Abortion Referral Project Groups- call for info. The Women's Center, 215 Park St. 436-0272

## Secret Investments . . .

**A striking contrast! Besides its new house, the New Haven Savings Bank owns the one shown above. It also owns several throughout the Hill and Fair Haven. These houses are abandoned and the scenes of fires that make them a hazard to surrounding buildings.**

# school notes

# School Rights Bill Needed?

by Ruth Hein
*Modern Times Staff*

The last issue of **Modern Times** carried the story of a Patients' Bill of Rights proposed by a class at High School in the Community. I was struck by the thoroughness with which the students had encompassed the patients' situation without in any way cutting into the effectiveness of proper medical treatment. It occurred to me that the same proposals, changing only a few words, could easily serve as an education bill of rights. It would read as follows:

(1) The parents and/or students may decide who the decision maker will be regarding the details of their education.

(2) The parents/students will be given the best possible education regardless of source of funds.

(3) The parents/students must be fully informed of the precise nature of their learning needs, the possible methods that best answer these needs, and of all alternative methods.

(4) The parents/students must have the option of accepting or refusing any method.

(5) The parents/students must be able to meet all teachers and administrators and have their qualifications explained in full.

(6) The parents/students are entitled to complete privacy regarding their school accomplishments, records, and attendance situations. All release of such information must be approved by the parents/students in writing.

(7) The parents/students must have complete access to their own school records and have the right to have them explained in language they can understand.

(8) The parents/students must be informed when methods are experimental and be fully informed as to their purpose.

(9) Each parent/student must be provided with an education advocate whose job will be tc help the parent/student understand all the dimensions of her or his educational procedures, to inform parents/students of their rights and to help enforce them.

**Unique Differences**

Some of the verbal changes in the provisions point to inherent differences in medical-surgical treatment (an individual, limited situation), and education, a universal ongoing process. While the rules are equally fair for patients and students, implementing them is also more complicated in public schooling than in private medicine.

The repetition of "parents/students" indicates the first problem area. The Patients' Bill of Rights does not distinguish between adults and minors;presumably a decision can be made in each case whether the youthful patients is old enough to act in her own behalf or whether his parent safeguards him. There is no agreement — and probably much disagreement, based on cultural and individual attitudes — about when a school pupil should be in charge of her own life. We can all agree that a five-year-old entering kindergarten lacks the experience to judge for himself and that, conversely, a high-school senior possesses the necessary information and acumen to make her own decision. But since it seems unlikely that consensus can soon be achieved about where within this spectrum the change should occur, the double noun admits to the confusion without allowing it to stop the quest for rights.

**Many Forms of Decision Makers**

Article 1, concerning "decisionmakers," is simple in medicine , where a choice generally exists between hospitals and among treating physicians. In public education, however, it goes straight to the point, not only of a Board of Education elected or appointed by the community, but also to a Citizen's Advisory Panel on all personnel search and selection, including the superintendent of schools.

Disparities of payment, addressed in Article 2, do not arise in public schooling, which is free by definition. We find, however, that public funds are now unequally supplemented in particular schools through government and foundation grants. More attention needs to be paid to distributing these extras equitably throughout an urban system.

A strong presupposition of Articles 3 and 4 is the availability of alternatives. Mant proposals have been put forward about ways to establish them, but so far none of them(for example, the voucher system) is entirely acceptable and none ' have been tried very extensively. However, even within the same classroom the good teacher is resourceful in dealing with different children in different ways; encouraging and rewarding such attempts might go a long way toward improving the learning atmosphere.

**Professionals Without a Doubt**

The "meeting" proposed in Article 5 is not a serious problem in schooling, but too often administrators and teachers fail to have their "qualifications explained in full." We are told, quite simply, that school people are "professionals" with the implication that they are all-knowing and that the rest of us are inadequately equipped to debate them.

The privacy of records, the subject of Articles 6 and 7, is now being enacted into law, though there is a good deal of opposition to the proposal. Nevertheless, it has passed the Senate, and further action is possible soon. Opponents claim that availability of records would inhibit teachers from writing down honest evaluations and that it would give rise to endless litigation. There seems little merit to this argument,however.

**Article 8 in Debate**

There seems less need for Artivle 8 in education than in medicine. However, there can be debilitating side effects from educational methods as well if the student or parents does not understand the purpose. Conversely, when there is a full explanation, community support can improve the effectiveness of a method. A case case in point is the open classroom. Wherever the aims and procedures have been fully explained to the parents, the experience has been positive. But where open classrooms were put in by a school without consultation with the community, there has been dissatisfaction and resentment, undercutting the effectiveness of the program and(in the particular case of one private school) resulting in a number of of withdrawals.

The purpose of Article 9 in the patients bill is to provide an ombudsman for the patient who is at a loss when faced with the expert, complex judgements of advanced medicine. Education is much easier—its needs and aims are quite comprehensible in everyday language. The many details of even one school and certainly a whole system can be overwhelming, however; someone must summarize them for the schools' consumers. In the same way, the many provisions of union contracts and of state and federal laws that govern the procedures of the school day make it imperative that the community have somewhere to turn for explanation and , if necessary, relief.

**New Haven: A Step Ahead**

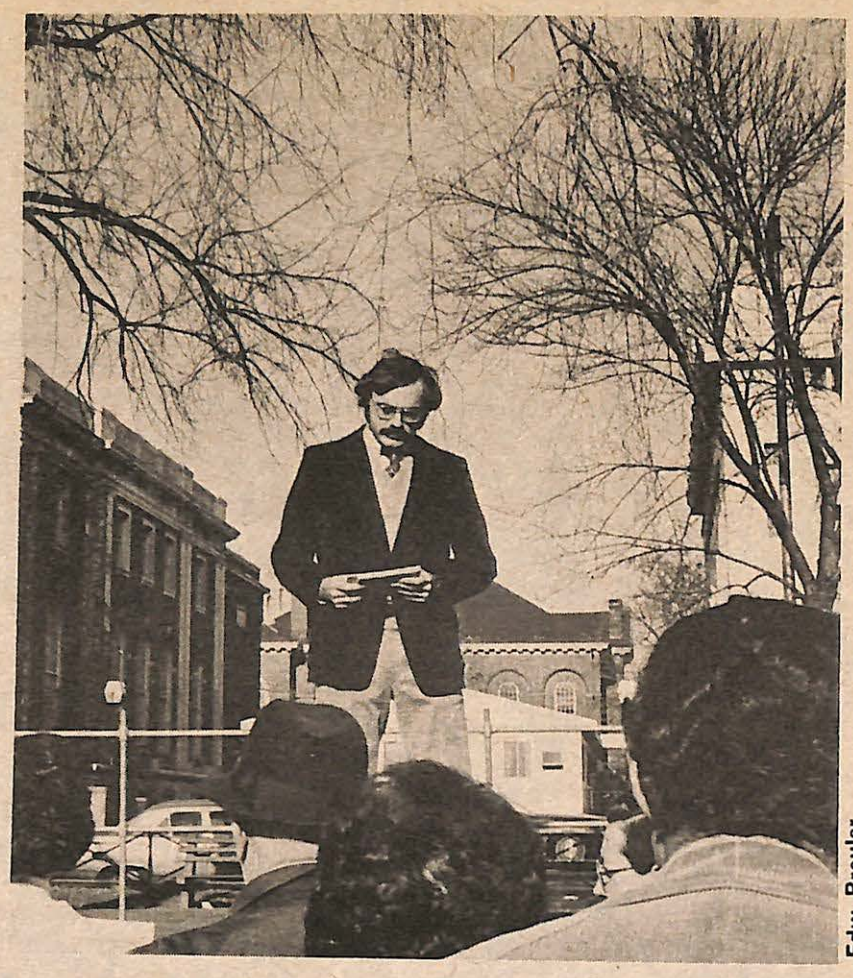
In fact, the schools in New Haven have already mandated a rnechanism that can serve just that function: school-community councils. The most conservative appraisal of councils identifies them as conduits to inform administrators of community feelings and explain to the community decisions taken by school administrators. Even this minimal function, of course, relies on administrators' integrity and openness to councils, which is not always the case. Perhaps legal support is needed before all school people will cooperate with councils and allow them to take on the significance they deserve.

Under such a system, councils can become knowledgeble about a total school system and about the rules that prevail. School law, students' rights, and state-mandated school goals need be learned, summarized, and made generally available. The parent or student must be able to consult the council, for example, for help in getting a transfer or being admitted to a special program. Legal recognition would also give councils the strength to to oversee the other eight articles and form a nonfrightening central agency parents and students can turn to.

There is some possibility that the Patients' Bill will sonner or later reapear in the form of state law. What are the chance for an education- rights bill? At this time of joy and hope, when we all believe in Santa Claus, let us be optimistic.

Merry Christmas!

# Anti-Inflation Rally Held Nov. 16



Edw. Breuler

**On Nov. 16, a rally was held on the New Haven Green is response to the current economic recession in the country. Many speakers from various groups throughout the city spoke against the economic ploicies of Pres. Ford and the general policies of the government in Washington.**

# 3rd AIM-Modern Times Forum

Sam Bowles

The AMERICAN INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT and MODERN TIMES are proud to present SAM BOWLES on: THE STATE OF AMERICA'S ECONOMY on Friday December 13. at 8 pm in the Undercroft of the United Church on the Green, corner of Elm and Temple Sts.

Mr. Bowles was born in Essex Conn. In 1960, he graduated from Yale Univ. with a B.A. In 1965, he received his PHD from Harvard in economics. He also has taught in many other Universitys throughout the country and was a member of the Economic Ministry in Nigeria. He is currently Professor in Economics at the University of Mass. at Amherst.

# S.C.C.C. Offers Courses in Labor Studies

by Modern Times Staff

Do you work in an office or shop and wish you had the time to go back to school and take a few courses? And do you wish that some of the courses available at the local colleges were the kind that would have something to do with the things you do everyday or would speak about the issues you confront everyday at work? Well, there are those courses now in New Haven, All you need is the time.

College courses for trade unionists are now being offered at South Central Community College here in New Haven. The courses are part of the curriculum of the newly formed Labor Studies Program. Completion of the program in Labor Studies offers the participating trade unionist an Assoicate Degree from South Central. Trade unionists and SCCC students can, of course, elect to take individual courses on the basis of interests and needs without enrolling in the entire program.

The Labor Studies Program at SCCC, as presently designed, consists of a core group of ten courses ranging in scope from economics and labor history to classes in arbitration, labor law, collective bargaining, writing and analysis of the contract, labor leadership, and labor's political role.

The courses in the program are all designed to meet the needs of local rank and file members and union leaders for training and education about the labor movement and about their role in the labor movement and in their own locals.

The Labor Studies Program covers these topics and the problems in the labor movement today from a labor point of view. The program is primarily designed and taught by trade unionists and labor educators for the union members of Greater New Haven.

**A Community Effort**

The Labor Studies Program is a joint venture by SCCC, the Labor Education Center of the University of Connecticut and the New Haven Central Labor Council. A similar program is currently in its third year of operation at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport.

The general idea of the labor studies curriculum at a community college is to provide the lcoal trade unionist with a broader range of educational experience and practical training than she or he would normally get in their own local's program. Frequently, small locals can rarely provide more than a stewards' training course for their own members.

The Labor Studies Program is brand new this semester at South Central and consequently only a few of the courses are offered this time.

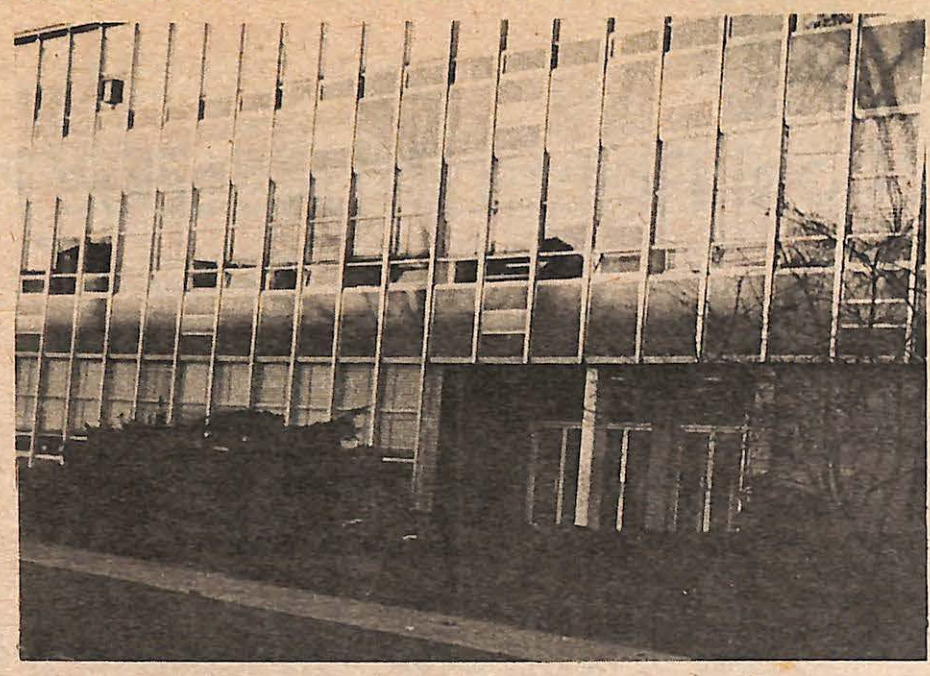
Each semester will see more courses added to the curriculum, providing, of course, that the response from area unions remains high. Two courses will be offered in the Spring semester starting in January; LS 101, History of American Labor, and LS 105, Labor and the Law..

**Program Well Received**

Several students are currently taking the Labor history course, the first one to be offered this fall. They are all area trade unionists from such locals as UAW Local 979, IAM local 609. Connecticut Union of Telephone Workers Fire Fighters (Wallingford), AFSCME Local 470 and the Utility Workers.

The LS program is open to all trade unionists, whether or not they have high school degrees. Interested trade unionists should contact the Director of Admissions at South Central Community College, Mr. Joseph Magyar SCCC offices are located at 111 Whtiney Avenue in New Haven and the telephone number is 772 - 3472. Each LS course will cost $18 75 plus college and registration fees.

Teachers will be available to speak with any trade union executive or general membership meeting to explain the program and answer questions. Unions interested in finding out more about the program should contact Don Pogue 776 - 2439 or Hank Murray 787 - 1531



Nick Heyer

South Central is offering a course in Labor History.

# Union Miners Walk Out

*continued from page 3*

environment. In the current contract demands, the union calls for reclamation of all stripped land, to be done by UMW members.

**Who Owns all the coal, Anyway?**

Most coal companies are owned by larger corporations. Oil companies own 23% of the current production and 70% of the known reserves of U.S. coal. Utilities and metal and chemical producers control another 32% of current production.

The profits of the coal producers' parent companies have shot up in the last year (see table).

The price of coal has risen dramatically in the past year, but not as fast as the price of oil and other fuels. So coal is still a bargain in the energy market and more and more firms are considering a switch to coal. The coal producers can count on a strong demand for many years to come.

**Miners' Strength**

The miners feel they have a strong bargaining position. UMW members produce 70% of U.S. coal, and their solidarity has been demonstrated in countless wildcat strikes. The recent UMW victory at the Brookside mine in Harlan County, Kentucky — long a famous center of union-busting activity — was a further encouragement.

The democracy of the UMW is also a source of strength. Since the 1972 victory of the miners for Democracy over the corrupt Boyle administration, the UMW has been far more open to rank-and-file participation than most U.S. u nions. Union officials have made extensive efforts to involve the membership in debating and formulating the contract demands.

The union leaders have promised not to railroad through a settlement. "I want the rank-and-file membership to have ample time to study any agreement before they are asked to vote on it," said Arnold Miller recently.

**How Important is Coal?**

At present coal accounts for 18% of U.S. energy consumption. About two-thirds of the coal mined in the U.S. is used in electricity generation. Most of the rest goes into steel production.

Fearing a strike, many companies have tried to build up stockpiles of coal. Several utilities have begun to import coal, especial from South Africa. Purchases of South African coal both undermine the strength of the UMW and help perpetuate intense exploitation in South Africa, where blacks are forced to work in the mines for $3 a day.

The UMW has also been preparing for a strike, too. Miners went off work for five days in August as a memorial to workers who have been killed in the mines over the years. The memorial effectively interfered with company stockpiling. The union also joined longshoremen, other unions, and radical groups in attempting to block imports of South African coal.

**If There Is a Strike**

A coal strike of more than a few days' duration will affect the entire nation. One half of the country's electricity is produced from coal. In a strike, petroleum will be allocated to utilities to replace coal. This is likely to result in shortages of gasoline and heating oil.

Workers will be laid off in other industries, particularly in steel where coal is an important input. If the strike lasts, the layoffs will spread. In short, where will be a full-fledged "energy crisis," just like last winter.

Business and government representatives will be quick to blame greedy miners, though slower to mention skyrocketing coal profits. The propaganda against the miners may be the basis for a general attack on labor's right to strike.

In response, other labor unions and sympathetic groups are likely to support the UMW, to oppose layoffs and price increases that are blamed on the strike, and to guard against any extension of anti-union legislation. The outcome of a UMW strike will affect the strength of labor throughout the country.

**SUMMARY: the past year in coal mining**

| | |
|---|---|
| Coal Profits | up 181% |
| Coal Prices | up 61% |
| Coal Production | up 6% |
| Cost of Living | up 12% |
| Miners' Buying Power | down 4% |

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**RENTEX Sm. Fee 397-2500**

**ATTENTION LANDLORDS**

Many qualified tenants waiting to talk with you. No charge ever.
**RENTEX 378 Whalley Av. 397-9628**

new leaf
house plants
cut flowers
496 cottage st. new haven
562-4370